

NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se filia gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

VOL. II. Philadelphia, December 4, 1819. No. 23.

Moralists have said that "all crime arises from a false estimate of the value of things." It is by enabling us to look at the objects of desire in an impartial light, that the thought of death has so great an effect in reducing our eagerness to attain them. We feel ourselves somewhat separated from the world, and can see in one view the relative importance of what we have desired, both as compared with the other gifts of Providence that surrounded us, and as tested by a consideration of them as contributing to the great end of our existence.

Within a very few months we have seen announced the death of many who have held distinguished places in public life. Some of them have mingled warmly in the political contests of the time, and have received from their opponents the most violent abuse that partizans can bestow. But now, when the objects of dispute have lost their interest, and the grave shelters those who are enclosed in it from our attacks, the most ardent politician, the most angry defamer can feel no remains of his former animosity. A conviction that we have injured those who are now beyond the reach of any atonement that we can offer, seems to produce even a kind of affection towards their memory, and it is gratifying to see their political enemies voluntarily coming forward to offer their praise upon the tombs of the dead.

Those who formerly accused them as acting from motives of criminal self-interest, can now easily believe that even their mistakes arose from a desire to promote the public good, while they bear the most unqualified testimony to their exemplary conduct in private life.

This experience of the errors into which our own interest can carry us, should teach us a lesson for the future. We ought to learn to judge favourably

of the actions of others, and not to attribute to them concealed views of their own advantage, when the ostensible motives of their conduct are sufficient to account for it. How much more likely would we be to reach the truth, should we seek it in a cool and dispassionate manner, than if we should conduct our inquiries with bitter animosity; and how much greater effect would our arguments have upon those who disagree with us in opinion, if they could perceive that we offered them in friendship and sincerity.

It has been said that parties are necessary evils in republics. This is true of them in a greater degree than of other forms of government, only so far as they offer greater advantages to talent; but there is too much warmth in the emulation, and it is our duty to soften, as far as possible, the asperity of public disputes, by cherishing for our adversaries the respect to which they are rightfully entitled. An irreproachable character in private life, should be sufficient to persuade us of the honesty of our most successful opponent.

Library.—Finding from the conversation of some of the stockholders at the meeting held on last Saturday, as well as from other circumstances, that the manner in which shares in the Library Company of Philadelphia are sold, is not generally known, and being desirous of calling the attention of our citizens to this invaluable institution, we state for the information of the public—that there are now about 780 stockholders—the number of shares is not limited—the price is 40 dollars, and there is an annual payment of two dollars—the real value of a share, from a calculation lately made, is about 78 dollars. Seventy-eight dollars expended in any other way, could not, however, be so advantageous

as an investment of forty in this. There are about 24,000 volumes in the building. The whole of the money received for new shares and for the annual payments, excepting what may be wanted for defraying the necessary expenses, is laid out in books. Directors are appointed by stockholders at annual meetings.

Those who may be desirous of purchasing shares, will please apply to Mr. James P. Parke, treasurer, No. 74, south Second street; or, in his absence, their business will be transacted without any trouble to them, on leaving their names at the bookstore.

A correspondent of the Pittsburg Gazette, after some deserved reproof of Mr. Neville, for the manner in which he has spoken of the members of the legislature from the eastern and middle counties, has successfully defended Mr. Breck from the charge of extravagance, and inattention to the practical improvement of the western parts of the state, by an exposition of his public conduct. We regret that a gentleman whom we respect as much as we do Mr. Neville, should have suffered his "sectional spirit" to make him forget for a moment the rules of decorum.

We have felt considerable alarm on account of the late sudden and serious illness of the secretary of war. He is now, however, rapidly recovering. From the ability formerly displayed by Mr. Calhoun in the House of Representatives, and from his industrious and zealous discharge of the duties of his present station, we have been led to hope much from him.

In the words of the Rhode Island American "the reputation of the United States for pacific forbearance and honourable uprightness, is far dearer to us than their overflowing wealth or martial renown. These are rather equivocal tests of permanent prosperity; but the former will at least endear our name to the wise and good of every nation, and surround it with a lustre which would illumine her hours of darkness and misfortune." From these reasons we wish that no angry measure may be taken with Spain. We have been deceived by that nation time after time, but are now in no danger

from her perfidy, and may well wait a little longer for justice. It will be delightful to see a nation that is sufficiently strong to right itself at once, prefer a submission to affected delay to a resort to force. We shall be proud to say that our government regards not only the strength but the justice of our cause.

Post Office.—There is one important alteration that we should be glad to see made in this department. It is our true policy to encourage the communication between all parts of the empire, and as the government is paid for the transportation, it ought to be responsible for money lost or stolen in its conveyance from place to place. This would probably lead to greater vigilance on the part of the officers, and fewer thefts would happen.

A writer in the Philadelphia Gazette of the 26th ult. suggests to the sheriff the propriety of making his sales at some regular time and place. By presenting a greater variety of articles, more purchasers will be drawn together, and property will sell at prices that bear a greater proportion to its value.

Communications.

To the Editors of the National Recorder.

I am sure I shall contribute to the gratification of every reader of true taste, by handing to you the following beautiful tale. It revives the feelings which are elicited by the tenderness of Potter, and the pathos of Mackenzie; and those whose hearts have been touched by the sorrows of La Roche, will be inclined to weep for the afflictions of Albert; and to admire and love the spirit of that Christianity, which strengthens the good to triumph over the evils of life. La Roche and Melmoth are tales of fiction; but this is a record of facts; delineated with all the genuine simplicity and fine feelings of a mind, warmed with the memory of departed goodness. **THEODORE.**

Hampton Lodge, Nov. 30, 1819.

ALBERT :
or,
Christian Virtue exemplified.

IN A LETTER FROM AURELIA TO HER FRIEND.

"There is a calm for those who weep,
"A rest for weary pilgrims found;
"And while the mould'ring ashes sleep
"Low in the ground;

"The soul, of origin divine,
"God's glorious image, freed from clay,
"In Heav'n's eternal sphere shall shine,
"A star of day!"

—
Tempé, Sept. 29. 1817.

My Friend—Although conscious of my inability to perform this interesting task, yet gratitude for the interest thou hast evinced for my dear departed friend, induces me to comply with thy request.

But thou must remember, that when the sun of prosperity shed its luminous beams upon him; when he co-operated with the wise in judgment, and united with the righteous in disseminating truth and light through the earth; when the sphere of his benevolence was ample; when the ardour of his feelings was unassailed by the withering hand of affliction—I knew him not. He arrived in America in 1798, accompanied by his wife and six children: they were induced to make a settlement at this place, from the recommendation of an Englishman of celebrity, who at that time resided in its vicinity. He purchased a large farm, a fine dwelling, and a set of mills.

The morn of his youth had passed in his native country, but the sun of manhood had only attained its meridian height: he had been educated for a minister in the Baptist church, and had filled that station from his twenty-first until his fortieth year, differing from them only in refusing to be paid for his labours; which he recommenced in America, and was here the leader of a small congregation.

During eight years, he appeared to enjoy all the happiness which health, virtue and affluence, together with an amiable family and the attention of friends could bestow. His beautiful daughters and sprightly sons drew the young and the gay into their circle; whilst the learned and the rich sought his society, and considered themselves honoured by his acquaintance.

In the full enjoyment of domestic felicity, possessed of no ordinary powers of *inspiring*, of *strengthening*, of *reciprocating* the warmth and tenderness of connubial and parental affection, he shared their rich fruits. Resting in the sunbeams of life's fairest promises, his unconscious bosom felt no prelude of the sleeping storm which was soon to

level with the dust every gay scene of earthly bliss.

"Behold the man who flourish'd like a tree!
"With all his blooming honours thick around,
"Vig'rous and fair, the pride of all the ground:
"By one swift blast of bleak Misfortune's
air,
"Stript all at once, an object of despair."

Two of his sons became victims of dissipation, and gave a melancholy proof, that, in the intoxicating bowl,

"The pearl of the soul can be melted away."

His oldest daughter, lovely and accomplished, the pride and darling of her father's heart, formed an attachment to a young Englishman of specious manners, but of doubtful virtue. Her parents objected to an union: affection yielded to the pleadings of eloquence, the voice of duty was silenced, and she hastily consented to a clandestine marriage; left the mansion of her unsuspecting father at the midnight hour, and was immediately conducted to Boston, where she was married. A lasting separation ensued.

Whilst his heart yet bled with the keenness of that blow, he was sent for to New York, to bid an *eternal farewell below* to a son, who was remarkable for the brightness of his talents and the firmness of his virtue. But the summons had arrived too late! He had already fallen a prey to the yellow fever, and had died; almost without a warning!

Often have I seen the tears steal from the eyes of my venerable friend, as with all a father's tenderness he recalled the remembrance of that beloved child, "whom," to use his own language, "God had most mercifully taken to himself, ere the brightness of his virtue had been sullied, or the integrity of his heart shaken."

"Rare are solitary woes."

A few weeks after this melancholy circumstance had taken place, a fall, with the particulars of which I am unacquainted, deprived him of the power of walking, left his hands almost closed, and very materially injured his general health. He was immediately conveyed to Boston, where he suffered the most excruciating operations to be performed; but all without effect—the original usefulness of his form was lost forever!

During the early part of his confinement, his wife watched beside his bed, with tenderest attention anticipated his wishes, and alleviated his sufferings by all those little kind offices which only affection can command.

"Sooth'd his vain tremors, hush'd his questions wild,
"And calm'd the tumult of his erring brain."

But her health was evidently sinking under the repeated shocks she had sustained; and although she had not appeared seriously indisposed, yet her pale cheek, her rayless eye, and altered countenance began to declare, that not long should her endearing presence cheer his solitary hours—not long her tender voice pour the balm of sympathy and love o'er his afflicted spirit.

One morning he was awakened by a wild shriek from his daughter, which seemed to proceed from the chamber of her mother; but being unable to leave his bed without assistance, it was some time before his painful suspense was exchanged for the most agonizing reality. His wife, the tender soother of his woes, was indeed *gone*,—and—forever! and gone, without a parting word. No soft farewell had sounded on his ear: all was unconscious now—and cold—and silent—where late the breathing soul of Love had shed purest lustre! No one had witnessed the final conflict: no sigh of death had awakened even those who slept beside her bed.

My friend could never dwell upon this scene: it was *too, too severe* for weak nature to support. Only once did I ever hear him speak of it; and then, though he expressed resignation to the Divine will, yet his tearful eye, his broken accents, and the deep melancholy which shaded his countenance, were sufficient evidences to me that he had fondly and firmly loved her, whose memory still filled his heart.

No longer able to direct his business, the inattention and extravagance of his sons had greatly injured his estate: debts of their contracting were every day presented for payment; and in a short time, he was obliged to sell all his possessions, with the exception of a few acres in a retired corner, where he erected the cottage of Oakley.

Now came the solitary hours of ne-

glected poverty. The gay crowd which had so lately basked in the beams of his prosperity, avoided his presence—

"All from the gloomy habitation fled."

One daughter only was left to share his humble home, and support his paralysed frame; she was then about twenty-five years old; mild and gentle as the vernal morning. She felt the neglect of the world merely as it affected her beloved father, for whom only she appeared to live. Oft have I seen her watch with tender anxiety the expression of his eye, leaving nothing unperformed which it seemed to say, would contribute to his satisfaction or comfort.

I feel a kind of delightful sadness as I approach the period in which I first beheld him.

Though that hour has long since been numbered with "the years beyond the flood;" though I have formed *other attachments*, been *blessed* with other friends—though the voice which could once "infuse the light of gladness in my soul" is silent forever!—yet the tears of unchangeable affection still flow; and I would not exchange the pensive joy I now feel in remembering *HIM*, *for all that gayest scenes impart*.

It was in the summer of eighteen hundred and eight, that I was invited by a party of my young friends to join them in a walk to see the Albert family. I had long felt an ardent wish to visit these children of sorrow, and gladly accepted the invitation. Our path led through a deep majestic wood, partially illuminated by the rays of the declining sun. The calmness of a Sabbath evening—the wild luxuriant scenes of uncultivated nature, and the gentle murmur of the wandering waters, had conspired to cast a delightful pensiveness over my spirit. On arriving at the cottage, we were met in the piazza by Laura Albert, who with a smile of welcome, accompanied by the most unaffected modesty, led us to a neat little room, where, on a bed, reclined her venerable father. Those who knew him approached, and offered their hands; he received them with politeness and cordiality, and invited us to take seats near him: but withheld by powerful emotions, I remained at some distance, and contemplated, unobserved, his noble though ruined figure.

Never had I seen a more interesting face—never, a countenance, which so clearly bespoke the dignity of a brave and exalted mind struggling with adversity. His expressive features seemed at once to declare, that he had “tossed upon a sea of troubles, yet it was evident that the storm was gone by; and there was only heard that faint rushing of the winds, with which they hush themselves to rest. Piety and Peace had met together in his bosom, and like the fabulous twins of other days, this union had spread a calm upon the waters.”

The expression of his countenance was certainly melancholy: yet it was brightly irradiated by the glory of the Christian’s hope. His eye seemed to say, “*Poor world, I have seen thy littleness, and let thee go: thy shadowy scenes delight no more—but my soul resteth in the promises of my REDEEMER.*”

On perceiving me, he regarded me with a look of much tenderness, and in an impressive voice, peculiar to himself, he exclaimed, “What dost thou fear? Is it the pressure of these withered hands? Alas! my young friend, seldom hast thou seen such an appearance of wretchedness; but if thou will repeat this visit, I will convince thee, that although my afflictions have been multiplied, my blessings overrun them.” He conversed freely, and every sentence was fraught with dignity, wisdom and tenderness. When the company arose to depart, he called me to him, and repeated his invitation to visit him again. I left him with a heart dilated with admiration—respect,—almost affection.

Oakley was situated in the bosom of a very lofty wood, near the confluence of two small streams, which stole along, over a rocky bed, with a kind of pensive murmuring, not undelightful to the ear. It was a spot characterized by an air of more than common wildness: yet it possessed more native beauties than I ever saw elsewhere. Tall and umbrageous oaks, which seemed almost coeval with the “everlasting hills,” spread their venerable arms around, and afforded a delightful shade.

“There the sweet wild rose rear’d its blushing head,
“With all the lonely children of the shade.”

Oh! how often have I, when blessed

with his society in that sweet retreat, forgotten the progress of time, whilst I contemplated the riches of his wisdom; whilst he endeavoured with all a father’s solicitude, to lead my young mind through the wonders of creation, and from it to creation’s Lord!—whilst “his time-taught spirit, pensive not severe,” warned me to dread the dangers of life’s untried way, and to seek an enclosure in the fold of rest;—whilst in pointing to the surrounding scenes of nature, “he borrowed touches from futurity, to give them a celestial colouring,” hours have stolen imperceptibly away, until the long shadows of evening, stretching along the valley, have warned me to retrace my wood walk wild.

Thus years glided away—whilst I enjoyed all the blessings of the purest friendship, uninterrupted by the fastidious world. No one envied me the possession of that, for which I was indeed enviable. He lived so much retired, that his very name was almost forgotten: the blow which had deprived him of fortune, seemed at once to have erased his virtues from remembrance; and no one could imagine, how the attentions of one so old—an obscure hermit—could possibly afford enjoyment to the young and gay. But the difference in age and acquirements was forgotten, for kindred spirits feel not these distinctions. He invited me to correspond with him; and though I felt my own inequality, yet I could not refuse the unspeakable satisfaction which his letters afforded. Sometimes he wrote with a simplicity and playfulness which were truly pleasing, but his style was generally serious, and every thing he said bore the impression of sensibility regulated by religion.

I have heard him observe that he was perfectly reconciled to his change of fortune, and thankful for all the dispensations of Heaven, even the *most severe*. His heart was the seat of resignation, and no one could contemplate his more than ordinary afflictions, without admiring the dignity, the uncomplaining fortitude, with which he sustained their pressure.

“Why should Virtue fear the storms of Fate?
“Hers what no wealth can win, no pow’r
“create.”

And thine, my dear departed friend! thine were treasures, which the gay throng that fled thy humble door, might seek at home in vain. Thine was a soul intuitively rich. Though many a shaft had pierced thy manly heart, yet the greatness, the dignity, which nature had impressed upon it, were not to be erased: and feelings and virtues, which have seldom blessed the splendid scenes of affluence, arose like flowers in the wilderness, shedding a celestial glow on the cold bosom of poverty.

I have no language to describe the moments of "solemn joy," and of tender melancholy, which we have spent together. Shall I forget thee, Albert?—forget the friendship with which thou blessedst me—the tender affection which beaming on my soul, elicited all its fervour?—Shall I forget the voice which poured instruction o'er my mind? O! never!

For still with every strong resistless plea,
Rise the recorded hours I spent with thee!

In February, 1815, intending to spend a few weeks from home, I went the evening before my departure, to pay a farewell visit to my friends at Oakley.

No roses now adorned my lonely path, which was rendered almost impassable by drifted snow: the stream which wound around the hills, was impeded in its course; forced its way with difficulty through banks of ice, and as it proceeded through the valley, mingled its melancholy roar with the chilling gale that sighed among the leafless trees. As every door was closed, I arrived at the cottage without being perceived, and from the window stole a view of its peaceful inhabitants. Laura was employed in knitting, whilst her father read aloud in the Bible. "His eye seemed to bear its testimony, that the revelation upon which it rested was true, by indicating how long the soul can survive the body; and its brow, like that arch which bestrides the heavens, not only said, that the storm had passed away, but like it also, prophesied of a peace which is to come." He was seated in an arm chair by the side of a cheerful fire, and every thing around wore an air of comfort and neatness. When I entered, he testified his joy in an uncommonly animated manner. He related many interesting circumstances of

his former life; and the most pleasing and instructive conversation amply compensated for my solitary walk. The cheerful tea table was spread, and my friend insisted that I should perform the task of his daughter that evening, in giving him his tea. It will be recollected, that he was reduced to the helplessness of infancy. After being removed from the table, he remarked that Friendship was a sweetener of every thing in this life. "Let us," said he, "my dear children, endeavour to make ourselves more worthy of its precious enjoyments."

Notwithstanding his cheerfulness, I thought he looked unwell. He had a cough, and his voice had lost much of its strength. I had no fears of a sudden change; yet I could not but believe, that that life which was so dear, so valuable, was fleeting swiftly away. But never at any period had he been more interesting.

"As the mortal frame declin'd,
"Strong through the ruins rose the mind."

When I was about to depart, he took my hand between his, and detained it for some minutes in silence—then in the most affectionate and solemn manner bade me—farewell!

Hast thou not anticipated that it was a final parting?—that I had seen my valued friend for the last time?

In two weeks after I had left him, he was seized with a fever, which was so violent in its commencement, as to leave no hope of his recovery. He immediately sent for my father, who remained with him almost constantly during the painful conflict. He expressed no alarm—no fear—but the most perfect confidence in that Power which had directed his peculiar destiny, and supported him through every afflicting scene.

He died as becomes a Christian; and "his last moments were gilded" by those unclouded hopes, that divine consolation, which *only a Christian* can feel.

O! had I caught thy parting sigh,
And heard thy pious wish aspire,
And seen thy spirit rise on high,
And felt the flame of that pure fire

Which glow'd within thy noble heart,
Ere yet it left this world below,
Though *then* indeed 'twere hard to part,
And Grief would bid her tribute flow,

Yet then, perhaps, the loss of thee,
Would wring my bosom less than now;

The hour which bade thy soul "be free,"
Would then have seen me own the blow

With deeper resignation blest—

With milder sorrow—tears restrain'd—
This heart of mine been less distress'd—
My absence then been less complain'd.

With flow'rs I plant thy humble grave;
O'er Virtue's dust I bid them bloom:
Alas! I vainly strive to save—
These symbols wither on thy tomb!

Fragile, like thee, they fade—and die!
Yet flow'rs there are, Death cannot kill:
They blush beneath a brighter sky!
Through varying age, immortal still.

There, nurtur'd by those show'rs divine—
There, kiss'd by fragrant gales of Love—
Their hues in ampler glories shine!
Their heavenly odours spread above!

These were the flow'rs which languish'd here:
Departed Albert! these thine own!
Thy modest virtues, truth sincere—
Thy tested faith, of lofty tone—

Thy holy hope—thy love refin'd—
And Wisdom, with her silver voice—
These mark'd below the "march of mind,"
These, thron'd above, shall say "Rejoice!"

That soul adorn, which once was lone—
Shall cheer the spirit erst oppress'd—
When Sorrow pour'd her secret moan,
And Health no more her son caress'd.

When Fortune frown'd, and friends were shy,
Ah! what avail'd thy standard worth?
From genuine rank, see worldlings fly,
Their sordid homage give to earth,

Nor learn to prize those nobler aims
Which Virtue makes—and Friendship pure
Confirms—prefers to earth-born claims!
Through rolling ages those endure!

And those were thine! But—thou hast fled!
Yet those shall live thro' chequer'd hour:
Though thou be number'd with the dead,
Thy youthful friend shall own their pow'r;

Shall bid thy virtues ever bloom—
And thy lov'd mem'ry cherish'd be!
In holier hour, thy humble tomb
Shall teach her soul to—copy thee!

AURELIA.

Record.

Foreign.

Intelligence received at New York by the packet ship James Monroe, which arrived at New York on the 28th Nov. in 27 days from Liverpool.

Meetings of the radical reformers continued to be held in various parts of the kingdom, and to counteract the spirit of disorder, sev-

eral important towns had offered to raise volunteer corps for the public safety.

The price of stocks in London continued unsteady, but on the whole rather improved since our last advices. Various rumours were daily set afloat on Change for the sole purpose of influencing the market. Among the number, was the rumour of an approaching change of ministry. On this the Courier asserts that it is totally unfounded.

On the 25th October, the aged king of England entered on the 60th year of his reign—four years longer than that of any other British sovereign. The park and tower guns were fired on the occasion.

The Liverpool Mercury, of the 29th October, mentions that, "Miss Patterson, the wife (the only lawful one) of Jerome Bonaparte, has addressed a formal but severe remonstrance to the French minister of the interior, M. de Cazes, complaining, that during five years she has been dragged from prison to prison at Lyons, Rennes, Grenoble, Strasbourg, &c. &c. and that in the meantime she had been pillaged of all her property.

It is said that the roads in Italy are dangerous to the traveller, from the great number of banditti by which they are infested. Some of the chiefs are said to have been officers in the French army.

TEXAS.

The editors have information on which they can rely, that the consequences of the rash invasion of the Spanish territory, by a handful of men from the American lines, are proving to be such as might naturally have been expected. After the dispersion of these men, those settlers in Texas who had associated with them were left in a most pitiable condition. All the American settlers have been obliged to cross over to this side the line, and leave behind them the fruits of their industry and the hopes of their families. The Spaniards from St. Antonio, 1700 strong, with six pieces of cannon, were, about the first of this month, near Labadie. Their intention was to establish a post at Nacogdoches, and settle the province. General Long had gone to Lafitte's, at Galveztown; and it was considered unsafe for him to return by the route by which he went out. With such materials as composed the expedition, it was impossible any other result could have attended it. The soldiers were, generally, of the most worthless order; men unfit for any service, and even such as were discharged, on account of their worthlessness, from the service of daily labourers at Baton Rouge and other posts. [Nat. Int.

Domestic.

A public meeting was held at Lancaster on the 23d ult. to express the sense of the peo-

ple on the question of extending slavery to the new states and territories. Several resolutions were passed, requesting the representatives in Congress to use their endeavours to prevent it—requesting the state legislature to take the subject into consideration, and thanking the members of the last Congress who opposed the introduction of slavery into Missouri.

A meeting was held at Westchester on the 27th, and an address to the members of Congress was adopted. We have been accustomed to think Chester county one of the happiest spots in the world; it is full of comfort and there are few crimes. How strongly is it contrasted with the most favoured regions where slavery is permitted.

On the 16th ult. the People of Colour of Philadelphia published a protest against the plan of colonization. They state that "the reiterated expressions of some of the advocates of the measure, that it was foreign to their intentions to interfere with a species of property which they hold sacred, and the recent attempt to introduce slavery in all its objectionable features into the new states, and which has only been prevented by a small majority in the national legislature, confirms us in the belief that any plan of colonization without the American continent or islands, will completely and permanently fix slavery in our common country. It is therefore *resolved*, That how clamorous soever a few obscure and dissatisfied strangers amongst us may be in favour of being made presidents, governors and principal men in Africa, there is but one sentiment among the respectable inhabitants of Colour, in this city and county; which is, that it meets their unanimous and decided disapprobation."

In New York, the "People of Colour," appear to think differently: at a meeting of 1200 or 1500, held there on the 23d ult. they express a favourable opinion of the motives of the society, and recommend that a committee be appointed to go to the proposed colony, and make a report to their friends here.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Philadelphia Library was held last Saturday, to consider the propriety of keeping the library open the whole day, instead of the afternoon, as is now the case. Every one appeared to be convinced that it would be advantageous, were it not that the purchase of books must be lessened. To avoid this, it was proposed to raise the annual payment one dollar on each share. This was opposed on the ground that the institution was originally intended for the benefit of the great mass of society, and that the only advantage in opening it would be enjoyed by men of leisure, who constitute a small part of the community;—while the addition of one dollar to the annual payment, would tend to circumscribe its benefits into a somewhat narrower compass. We agreed entirely with the opinion, that it

is of infinitely more importance that the whole body of the people should be induced to read, than that literature and science should be highly cultivated. And yet we should like to see the library open all day. Sales of new shares may perhaps augment the funds of the institution, so as to make it prudent to incur the additional expense.

The votes in favour of opening the library	41
the whole day, were	41
Against it	357

New York State Canals.—It is stated in the Albany Gazette, that the middle section of our Great Western Canal is now open and navigable from Utica to Salina; and that the Northern Canal is open and navigable in its whole extent, from Lake Champlain to the Hudson River.

A gentleman from one of the towns which the Canal traverses, informs us that transportation is reduced by means of it, to about the rate of 25 per cent. of what it formerly cost.—This is an immense saving in a country from which thousands of barrels of salt, flour and corn, are sent to the New York and other markets every year.

Ohio Canal.—The Commissioners appointed by the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, to ascertain the proper location of a Canal around the Falls of the Ohio river, have decided in favour of the Kentucky side of the river, and have computed the expense at 400,000 dollars. The cost of a Canal on the Indiana side, it is believed by the Commissioners, would exceed a million.

The waters of lake Champlain and the Hudson are now connected by the Northern Canal, and lumber from Vermont and the upper counties of this state are descending to New York market.

Clergymen.—The Vermont legislature, at their late session, repealed the law exempting the property of clergymen from taxation. But, when it is considered what salaries the clergymen in that state receive, it is not apprehended the public treasury will be materially replenished by this measure.

Imprisonment for Debt.—After the first day of May next, no person in Vermont will be liable to imprisonment for debt for any sum under fifteen dollars, contracted after that date.

The Kentucky Argus states that a gentleman of that country has discovered, that *Buckeyes*, hitherto considered utterly useless, will yield a large quantity of excellent starch. The process for obtaining it is extremely simple, and the quantity yielded is equal in size to about two-thirds of the nut.

Take off the shell, and grate or pound the inside of the nut as fine as possible, and put it in water. The starch will settle to the bottom. Pour off the water, and dry the starch in the sun. It will be as white, and, it is believed, as good as any obtained from grain.

The proceedings and debates of the legislature of Pennsylvania, will regularly appear in the Harrisburgh Chronicle. The laws will also appear as they pass.

At a meeting of the citizens of the Northern Liberties, on the 18th Nov., for the purpose of considering the propriety of a culvert over Pegg's run, a committee was appointed to confer with the managers of the Schuylkill Navigation Company, and the managers of the Union Canal Company, to ascertain the practicability of connecting the Schuylkill with the Delaware, by a canal through the said run.

The chamber of commerce of this city have resolved to petition Congress to pass a bankrupt law.

The following gentlemen were chosen by the public meeting on the Missouri question, as a committee of correspondence :

Jared Ingersoll, William Rawle, Horace Binney, Robert Ralston, Thomas Leiper, Robert Walsh, jr., Caleb North, Dr. Geo. Logan, general John Steel, Charles Chauncey, Peter S. Duponceau, William Sansom, Manuel Eyre, Joseph P. Norris, Roberts Vaux, Moses Levy, Samuel Breck, James C. Fisher, James N. Barker, Benjamin R. Morgan, John Hallowell, John W. Thompson, George Latimer, John Connelly, Timothy Paxson.

Improvements.

GRAPE VINE.

Since the publication of the essay on this subject, that we reprinted from the National Intelligencer,* four others have appeared in that paper, of which we make the following abstract.

While the country is so much uncleared and uncultivated, Harmony, in Pennsylvania, at which place an experiment was made, is probably too far north for wine, though not for fruit. The whole of Alabama is thought to be adapted to the vine culture. Women perform about half the labour. None of the work is heavy, but men usually perform that part which requires much care.

In the hilly Spanish colonial country of North America, about the 26th degree to the 32d degree of north latitude, on and south of the Rio Bravo del Norte, there is authentic evidence, in a report to the government, that the vine grows well, though its culture was forbidden by the crown; produces good crops of fine wine; and supplies the province and its neighbours. That country, called Coahuila, being as far south as any part of Florida, it is ascertained that where our country has become, or shall be made dry enough and cleared, the vine region runs to the southern limits of the United States.

* See page 308.

The best wine in Spain is made in the same temperature as the most southern parts of East Florida and Louisiana. We can have no reason to doubt, then, that, as our country now is, and shall in future be, cleared and drained, and if ridges, hills, and mountain sides, with south exposures, shall be carefully selected, the most southern of our states, territories, and districts, will be as suitable for vine, its wines and dried fruits, as the most proper and fruitful parts of the peninsula of Spain and Portugal. The works of travellers, agriculturists, and men of distinction in the arts and sciences, upon the subject of the vine, and wines, and dried grapes, of Spain and Portugal, are therefore strongly recommended, by our best interests, to the attention of our citizens.

[Abridgment of a letter, of a late date, from an American now in Bordeaux.]

"Chaptal, sur la Culture de la Vigne, l'Abbe Rozier's memoire sur le meilleure maniere de faire et gouverner les Vignes, and Jullien's Topographie de toutes les Vignobles, are the authors most in repute in France on the Vine and on Wine.

"*Medoc* is the district which produces the best wine in this neighbourhood. It is much such a country, as to hill and dale, or general surface, as that between Philadelphia and Trenton, of a sandy, sandy-loam, and gravelly soil, with some few exceptions of small patches. About seven leagues from north to south, and three from east to west, of this district, is occupied with vineyards, which produce the best wine, whose expositions are from east to south.

"In this district various kinds of claret are produced, which bring from \$60 to \$600 the ton. The vines are not suffered to grow above three feet from the ground.

"*Hautbriant* is produced on a single estate of that name, lying in *La Grave*, about a league south of Bordeaux. The soil is sandy and gravelly; so much so that you would hardly suppose it capable of vegetation.

"The districts which produce *Sauterne*, *Barsac* and *Grave* wines, lie from the skirts of the city south about four leagues, presenting much the same swell of surface as that part of New Jersey through which the mail runs between Trenton and Brunswick. I have seen hundreds of acres of vines in *Grave*, growing in pebbles, from the size of a bean and nutmeg to that of an egg, without the least vestige of earth, crackling under foot, and filling one's shoes.

"It has been stated that two millions of acres are taken up in the cultivation of the vine, in France, producing, one year with another, five hogsheads of sixty-three gallons to the acre; which, at the moderate price of fifty francs, or ten dollars, the hogshead, gives one hundred millions of dollars. This produce is immense; and, what renders it still more valuable, is, that it does not lessen the quantity of other necessary productions, such as wheat, &c.; for where the vine ge-

nerally grows in France, nothing else will grow; such is the poverty of the soil generally employed for vines.

"They have the wild vine in France. I have seen large quantities of it near Bayonne, and round the foot of the Pyrenees, up to Pau. The inhabitants make beautiful hedges of it, and I have been assured by a distinguished naturalist, Mr. Pennieres, who is now in the Alabama territory, that some of the excellent grapes of France have been produced from the wild vine, after some years of careful cultivation. He is now engaged in inoculating our wild vines with those of France, from which he expects the most favourable results.

"I shall conclude these hasty observations by an extract from Rozier:

"The vine is a plant whose transpiration and suction is abundant and vehement, which sufficiently indicates the soil and exposition natural to it. For this reason, grounds composed of sand, gravel stones, and rotten rocks, are excellent for its cultivation.

"A sandy soil produces a fine pure wine. The gravelly and stony a delicate wine. Rotten and broken rocks a fumy and generous wine, of a superior quality.

"A rich, strong, compact, cold or humid soil, which is pressed down by the rains, and which the sun hardens or bakes, is essentially prejudicial to the quality of the wine.

"The most advantageous exposition for the vine, is that of a gentle slope, or side of a hill, facing east and south, on which the rays of the sun continue the longest time.

"Hills, in the neighbourhood of the ocean and rivers, ought to be preferred to all others. The lower parts of these hills are not so favourable to the vine as the upper, and neither are equal to the middle region, the soil being the same.

"All trees are unfriendly to the vine, as much from their roots as their shade. All who cultivate the vine, should remember this precept of Virgil: 'Apertos Bacchus amat colles' — 'The vine delights in the open unshaded hills.'

"In a word, the vine ought never to be planted in soils that can produce grain, &c. because it wants nothing but heat, and thrives best in the poorest ground. This will appear ridiculous to those who look for *quantity*: but, as to the quality of the wine, it is in strict conformity with the laws of vegetation and with experience. I must be understood to speak here of countries only whose temperatures are favourable to the success of vineyards. We must except those in more northern latitudes. These general precepts admit of no exceptions: They will be acknowledged by all those who, with good faith, and free of prejudices, have studied the cultivation of the vine. If other modes and precepts are followed, we cannot answer for the age of the vine, or for the quality of the wine."

These views of the locality, soils, and exposures of the fine Bordeaux wines, such as the white, or Sauterne, and vin de Grave, and the red or clarets, such as La Fitte, Chateau Mar-

gaux, &c. will be left, for the present, on the public mind, with a firm confidence in their due impression, accompanied by the remarks, that the difference between our temperatures, in our present wooded condition, and that of the south-west of France, may be safely taken at eleven or twelve degrees; and that the progress of clearing lands and draining swamps will reduce that difference, in a few years, below ten degrees. Thus, St. Marys, in Georgia, will ultimately prove about as warm, for vegetation, as Oporto in Portugal, and the productions of Europe, in any given latitude, may be found in, or, as we drain and clear, introduced into the United States, in latitudes nine or ten degrees farther south. The pride of all Europe is certainly the wines of the following places:

Champagne, in lat. 49 N. in Europe, equal to	39° to 40° in U. S.
Burgundy, 48	38 to 39
Old Hock wine, 49	39 to 40
Bordeaux, Claret, } 45 and Sauterne, } 35 to 36	
Best brandy of the wine grape, } 45 Bordeaux and Cognac, } 35 to 36	
The wine district of Europe for the finest wines from Malaga to 36½ } and Xeres to 49 } 27½ to 39 or 40	
Epernay, in Champagne,	

The state of this culture in the Spanish North American province of Coahuila is worthy of the most particular attention of the people of the southern and western states and territories. That Spanish province extends from 26 degrees North latitude to 32. The culture of the vine there was and is prohibited by the orders of the Spanish crown, to prevent the interference of their colonial agriculture with the wines, brandies, and dried grapes, which are produced in every province of European Spain.

Coahuila is bounded on the north by Texas and New Mexico; on the east and south by St. Louis Potosi, Racaicos, New Leon, and New St. Ander; and west by New Biscay. Its northern part is west of the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, from their coasts on the Gulf of Mexico to the latitudes of Natchez and Washington, (Miss.) and a few minutes north. Coahuila is also west of the whole coast of Georgia, and East Florida: the south cape of the Savannah river being about 32 degrees north. The precise situation of this well established Spanish North American vine district, is of great consequence, as a positive proof that no part of the United States is too far south, or too hot for the vine.

On the whole, the profitable growth of the vine and the manufacture of wine, in the Northern section of the American continent, from the southern part of Coahuila, in 26

degrees north to the vicinity of Columbia, (in South Carolina,) in 33 degrees, and to the first rising country in North Carolina, in 34 degrees to 36 degrees 30 minutes, and to Glasgow, in Kentucky, in 37 degrees, and to Vevay and Harmony, in Indiana, in 38 degrees 30 minutes, to 38 degrees 45 minutes, give us the most indubitable assurances of a vine district, or a vine region, in the United States, from our coast on the Gulf of Mexico, northward to the end of the 39th degree. This is a matter of the greatest direct interest to that extensive country of the vine of the United States, and must have the most sure and favourable effects in the settlements of its lighter lands with a free white population.

It is no longer a speculation in the possible or probable fitness of our climate, soil, and country, for the various kinds of grapes and wines. We find in Coahuila from 26° to 32° in our hemisphere, on our continent, in the northern section of it, in a new and much wooded country, between the Atlantic and the Pacific, that the vine succeeds, in quantity and quality, though prohibited by the government.

We find, also, that, in a place so far north as Vevay, five hundred gallons have been produced by the acre of land, and that the vine is equally prosperous at Harmony, in Indiana; and more so at Glasgow, in Kentucky. The fitness of the intermediate country, in the proper situations, which offer to us in every county, cannot be doubted. It is respectfully recommended, that the assistants of the marshals in the United States be directed to inquire into and report every case of a regular vineyard, great or small, at which wine has been regularly manufactured, of what age and kind of grape, in what quantity, and of what quality and colour.

Mode of Culture.—During the summer months, the land on which you intend to plant the vines is *dug*, by some three-quarters, by others one yard, and by a few five-quarters. In the month of January the plants are put in the ground in two ways, *either* by making a hole with an iron bar, *or*, with a spade, or any like instrument. When the plant is put into the ground, care must be taken in filling up the hole to tread the earth well about it. The plants that are used are young branches of the foregoing year, which are taken off the old vines at the time of pruning; which is the space between gathering the grape, and the time they are likely to shoot. The year after the vine is planted you cut the stalk to a certain height, which generally is done so that only five or six buds remain on the stalk above ground. You thus leave the plant until it shoots, and after these are secured from frosts, and other accidents, which can destroy some of them, you cut off all the shoots excepting the highest, and when the time of pruning comes you prune these shoots, leaving each of them only one bud, and then take your choice of the two original buds that have shot the year before, for your vine to form a head. If the highest is the best, you

cut off the whole second; or if it is the lowest you prefer, cut off the highest—and by that means leave only one. You must every year prune your vine, and for a certain number of years, until you see it has grown strong and healthy, you cut off the new branches, each only one bud from the stalk; and if any of these branches have shot out of the way, so as to be likely to spoil the head of your vine, by having shot lower, or are very weak, you cut them off; or if two together, you lop off the feeblest, that the other may gain more strength.

When your vine is eight or ten years old, and the stalk is stout and strong, every year, when pruning, you leave one of the best shoots of the foregoing year, with about four or five buds; as the vigour and substance of these mature stalks are better able to nourish these members than those of a less ripened age. The same sort of vine gives richer or poorer wine, according to the nature of the land in which it is planted. Wheat land is *not good* for the vine. The best is a white chalky or clay land; such as when it is first dug comes out in large pieces, and has almost the consistence of soft stones. The next is red clay, and the last, and worst, is the *sandy*. After you prune you must dig the vineyard, leaving a large square hole to each vine, that it may keep the rain. This is done, *in Spain*, on account of its being more generally *dry than wet*. But if it lies on a low piece of ground, you then dig it, *raising* the earth in *rows* between the vines, parallel to one another, that the *rain* may run off before the vine shoots. Again, you dig the ground and leave it even; when the new shoots are strong enough to bear going through the vine ground without tearing them off, you give it another digging, but shallow; and when the grape is near ripening, you give it another very slight digging. (To save labour, the plough, harrow, and horse hoe, may be used, where land is abundant.)

When your vine shoots, you take off the bud shoots, as before directed. All young plants must have sticks tied to them, to hinder them from growing crooked. The long branches left on the vine must, after it has grapes, be raised from the ground, and supported with sticks in order both to be able to dig the ground, and to prevent the grapes from rotting from the moisture thereof. Vines very often shoot from the very root. These shoots *must* be carefully taken away, that a young vine should not root too near the surface, which would expose it to be parched up with the solar rays, and to have the roots cut off when dug. Care must be taken every year, when the hole is made about them, to shave off all the young roots it may have. When any of the vines decay, it must be replaced by a *branch* of the *next to it*, which is done by leaving this with two branches, digging a trench three quarters of a yard, or a yard deep, from one to the other, then burying the vine with two branches, carrying one to the place of the decayed, and leaving the other in the place

of the buried one. These are treated in every respect as young vines. It never will answer to set a new plant amongst *old* vines, for it cannot thrive. The vines are set in regular rows, similar to our corn fields, at the distance of one yard and three quarters apart.

Miscellany.

CORRESPONDENCE

Communicated to the Columbian, by the committee of publication, in behalf of the New York Corresponding Association, for the promotion of Internal Improvement.

(Concluded from page 347.)

3. *To what extent and advantage do you think the mines might be worked, under proper management and superintendence?*

4. *Are the laws of Congress, which have been passed in relation to our lead mines, salutary in their operation?*

I have stated the amount of lead annually produced by the Missouri mines, at three millions of pounds, and which, on reflection, I think is sufficiently high. But there are numerous difficulties opposed to the successful progress of mining in that country, by the removal of which, the amount would be greatly augmented. Some of these difficulties arise from the peculiar nature of the business, from a want of skill, or of mining capital in those by whom mining operations are conducted; but by far the greatest obstacle results from the want of a systematic organization of the mining interests by the United States, or from defects in existing laws on the subject.

Immediately after the occupation of Louisiana by the United States, inquiry was made into the situation and extent of the mines, and a law was passed, reserving all mines discovered on the public lands, and authorizing the territorial governor, for the time being, to lease out such mines for a period of three years. A radical defect in this law appears always to have been that there was not at the same time authorized the appointment of a specific agent for the general management and superintendence of mines. Such an officer has long been called for, not less by the public interest, than by the intelligent inhabitants of the western country, who feel how nearly a proper development of its mineral wealth is connected with their individual prosperity and national independence. The superintendent should reside in the mine country, and such a salary should be attached to the office as to induce a man of science to accept the post. His duty should be to report annually to Congress on the state of the mines, their produce, new discoveries, and proposed alterations in existing laws. He should lease out and receive rents for the public mines, prevent the destruction of timber on mineral lands, and the working of mines without authority, and should be charged with the investigation of the physi-

cal and geographical mineralogy in that country. At present, the most flagrant violations of the laws are practised—mines are worked without leases—wood is destroyed on lands which are only valuable for the wood and the lead ore they contain, and the government derive a small revenue from those celebrated mines, which, whether we consider them for their vast extent, the richness of their ore or the quantity of metal they are capable of annually producing, are unparalleled by any other mineral district in the world.

There is another feature in the existing law, which is not beneficial in its operation. It is that clause restricting the term of leases to *three* years. To embark in mining operations with profit, it is necessary to sink shafts, and galleries, build engines, and erect other necessary works, which are, in some degree, permanent in their nature, and require much time and expense in their completion. A considerable part of the period must therefore elapse, before the mine can be put in a state for working, and no sooner is that done, and the mine begins to afford profits, and promises a reward for the expense incurred, but the expiration of the lease throws all his works into the hands of some more successful applicant or favourite. This prevents many from engaging in mining on the public lands, and especially those who would be best able to prosecute the business, and of the number who take leases, a great proportion continue to pursue the desultory method of mining in alluvial ground, introduced at an early period by the French, but which is attended with very great uncertainty.

Improvements remain also to be introduced in regard to the processes of mining, the furnaces employed, and the method of raising the ore. Inseparable from this subject is the distribution of more enlarged practical and scientific views of mining and minerals generally, which might in a great degree be effected by the national superintendent, by occasional familiar treatises on the subject, wherein the practice of mining should be enforced, and the theory explained, on scientific principles.

When such improvements shall be effected, and others to which it is not necessary here to advert—when miners are properly secured in the object of their pursuit, either by permanent grants from government, or by leases for a long period of years—and when the facilities to transportation which that country is destined to afford by the improved navigation of its streams, and by the introduction of permanent turnpikes, roads and bridges, there is reason to conclude that the annual aggregate amount of lead produced, will far surpass the proceeds of those mines under the present arrangement, and, indeed, it is impossible to calculate the extent to which it may be carried. It is perhaps a moderate estimate to say, that they are capable of being made to yield by a judicious management, six millions of pounds of lead per annum, and that they will furnish employment to three thousand hands.

During my late tour throughout the western country, including nearly a year's residence in the interior of Missouri, I devoted much time to this interesting subject, and have been enabled to collect a body of facts on the physical resources and character of that country, and particularly of its mines and minerals, which it is my design to lay before the public. I must therefore refer you to this work for further details on this subject, and in the mean time, I beg your indulgent perusal of this hasty outline.

With respect, sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT.

Charles G. Haines, esq.

From the Liverpool Mercury, of Oct. 29.

The following details of the recent ascent of Messrs. Livingston and Sadler, have been politely presented to us by the latter gentleman.

Narrative.—The process of inflation commenced at 20 minutes past 9 o'clock, and continued until half-past 12, at which time we were enabled to proceed with the preparations for attaching the car. In this I was kindly assisted by several friends, whose aid is deserving of my warmest thanks.

In ascending, it is at all times prudent to be provided with a competent supply of ballast, and to have such a command of gas, as will leave it optional with the aerial voyager to choose his time and place of descent. Wanting these, he is without the chief powers of controlling and directing the balloon, and, of consequence, is liable to many contingencies.

My companion having taken his seat, and the banners being presented to us by the countess of Sefton, and Mrs. Blackburn, such a portion of ballast was removed as would enable us to clear the surrounding buildings: every thing being now prepared, the last signal was fired, and the balloon ascended.

The atmosphere being hazy with low clouds, we determined not to ascend high, in order to continue in view of those friends whose gratulating cheers followed us with their approbation.

The ascent was rapid, and its course to the north-east: the beauty of the surrounding country at the time was highly variegated; Liverpool, with the neighbouring towns, villages, parks—the rivers Dee and Mersey, whose course was marked by the numerous vessels—the coast of Wales, to the Orme's Head, mountains, and distant ocean; which, all added, gave the mind a very lively impression, of which none but those who have witnessed, can form a perfect idea. Sounds from below were still audible, and we distinctly heard the band playing on the spot which we had just left.

Twenty-three minutes past 2, saw, in the direction of Wigan, and Ormskirk, numbers of people, and as our principal wish was to afford all the gratification in our power, we

opened the valve, descended and saluted them, and reascended; the report of two guns, which we presumed was intended as a salute, we returned by waving the banners.

The Lancashire coast, with the towns of Preston and Lancaster, and different villages to the north, formed a most delightful and pleasing picture.

Our elevation at this period (four minutes to three) was about two miles; and here we uncorked a bottle of Madera, and with feelings of the highest respect, we severally drank the health of the ladies who presented our banners.

Here the town of Blackburn, which from our elevated situation appeared but small, was at a short distance from us to the eastward. We now passed rapidly over several elevated parts of the country, and a large quantity of peat land. Two minutes past 3 o'clock, the balloon, which, from the time we threw out ballast, had continued to rise, now became slightly agitated, and in referring to our compass we found that the current had changed from a southwest to a west southwest direction.

Proceeding in this course for some time, we passed over a number of small villages and manufactories, from which numbers of people crowded; and at one particular place, unanimously invited us to descend. To gratify them, and amuse ourselves, we opened the valve and descended, making every appearance of acceding to their wishes by waving our banners, and standing up in the car. A general shout announced their conviction, that their wishes were about being gratified, and numbers hastened to where they expected we would light; but we had approached too near the earth to carry on the deception any longer, and the expending of a bag of ballast terminated their hopes, and in a short time carried us to other scenes; good humour, however, still prevailed, for we could plainly hear their huzzas, and see the waving of hats and handkerchiefs.

The country over which we now passed still retained all its beauty richly cultivated, the eye never wearied in observing its variety; but this scene was fast changing to another of a different character, for at a distance we could perceive the western mountains situate in Yorkshire, which we learned by descending so low as to question and receive an answer from a person at work in a field. With rapidity we now passed near Skipton, at eighteen minutes to four.

The uninteresting face of the country now determined us to get to a greater altitude, having heretofore kept low for the purpose of enjoying the scene, the thermometer generally at from 40 to 38 deg. We, therefore, expended some of our ballast, and very rapidly left objects beneath. We here took a parting view of the receding objects, and to our astonishment beheld the Humber, which must have been at least upwards of fifty miles from us; we had scarcely time to take a hasty glance at the vast amphitheatre beneath us,

when we found ourselves enveloped in the approaching clouds.

The balloon now became quite distended, and we found it necessary to relieve it by opening the valve, and allowing a large quantity of gas to escape, which broke the solemn silence which reigned around us, by a kind of hissing noise. We still continued to ascend rapidly, the thermometer now sunk fast, and the cold became very severe, having now penetrated the intervening vale of clouds; they shortly after appeared to our view, far beneath like an immense track covered with snow. Mr. Livingston as well as myself, now felt the cold extremely severe, every thing we could collect was put in requisition to defend us from it, and we found the bags from which we had discharged ballast particularly useful, by being wrapped about our ankles, where the cold was most intense. This caused us to consult the thermometer, and to our surprise we found it had sunk 6 degrees. To those who have felt almost intolerable cold on the face of the earth, when the thermometer stood many degrees higher, it will doubtless create surprise how we existed; but when it is considered that the aeronaut at no time feels any resistance, but travels at an equal rate with the surrounding atmosphere, by which the body is not robbed of its warmth, as is the case when a current of air is constantly passing, this surprise must cease. Our altitude could not be less than four miles, and we felt ourselves so very uncomfortable that we immediately began to descend, which was soon effected, as we had heretofore, from the balloon's vast expansion, been constantly allowing gas to escape. Our approach to the earth was announced to us by the noise of water falling. Found the mountains, and in a little time we could discover their highest tops, partially seen through broken masses of clouds. Never was there a finer or more sublime spectacle witnessed than now presented itself; the dark and barren tract of that mountain country which we had just passed, partially buried by huge masses of dark vapour, and clouds rolling along their summits, contrasted with the highly cultivated and magnificent prospect, which, though faintly discovered, was every instant presenting new objects, and delighting us by their variety. Three minutes past four, the balloon was again agitated, with more violence than at first; we found we had reached the first current of southwest. Here we descended so low as to perceive the trees agitated by the wind; and on Mr. Livingston calling to a person who was immediately under us at work, what county we were in, he was told Yorkshire. From our observation now on the passing objects, we were struck by the very rapid progress we were making, our eye was scarcely fixed on a particular place ere we had left it far behind; as the wind had increased very much since we left Liverpool. At 18 minutes past 4 Mr. Livingston pointed out to me a circumstance which deserves remark; it has been hitherto supposed that the

balloon, in its rising, turns on its axis from left to right, and retains that motion until it descends; this, however, we found not to be the case, for although it had taken that motion on its ascending, at this period it had ceased, and he observed it change to a kind of oscillating motion, but after a time returned to the first. Probably this was given by the change of current. We again descended very low, and on our inquiry where we were, received the information, in the county of Durham.

The country all seemed alive, hundreds running along the road and across the inclosures, hastening, we presume, to where they supposed we would come down; but of this we had no intention. Here we counted our ballast, and consulted the watch—we found we had ten bags unexpended, and that it wanted ten minutes to 5; we accordingly determined to remain up until 6 o'clock, and prosecute our voyage to the utmost. This determination we however were obliged to relinquish, for in looking forwards in the direction of our route we were struck with its appearance.

At first we supposed it to be clouds resting on high lands, but in a few minutes our approach was so quick that the sea burst upon us; and, consulting our map, we found ourselves on the verge of the north sea. No time was now to be lost: Mr. Livingston set every thing in order in the car, put aside our instruments, and prepared for landing, while I was busily employed in fastening the grapnel, and lowering it over the car. Our approach to the earth was now much accelerated by the discharge of gas, and we had scarcely time to suspend ourselves from the ropes, when the car struck with great violence, rebounded, and almost immediately again struck with accumulated force; the grapnel now took hold in the ground, but such was the force of the wind that it instantly snapped, and we were dragged along for a considerable way; the second hook got fast, but this also gave way by bending nearly straight, and our hopes in being stopped by means of the grapnel were over. We had been hurried by violence over the third field, striking and bounding almost every yard, when the hoop of the car providently got entangled in a quickset hedge, where it remained near a minute, and gave us time to renew our hold and get strength. The wind was now very high, and, by a sudden gust, the balloon forced the car through the hedge. Here, I am sorry to say, Mr. Livingston received a most severe hurt by the sudden jerk of the car, which struck his chest and side with great violence against the earth, and shattered the rail where he sat, and I had serious fears that, from his being rendered nearly insensible, he would let go his hold; but I was happy to find he still struggled with it and held fast, thus securing our mutual safety, as, by the balloon being released of his weight, it would have immediately reascended and carried me out to sea. We now had been

dragged nearly over the fourth field, when the gust of wind died away, and by continually exhausting, the balloon fell to the ground, and was secured by us, before some men who had followed it, but were afraid to lay hold, had come up. We now found we had descended at Norton, about three and a half miles from Stockton upon Tees, and within five miles of the German ocean. On a rough calculation, we supposed we had travelled between 160 and 170 miles, but on measuring the map, it proves to be about 150 miles, in the short time of 2 hours and 50 minutes.

Cotton, Rice, Tobacco, Sugar, Wine.

The National Intelligencer informs us that in New York 133 bushels of Indian corn have been gathered this year from *one acre*; and 714 bushels of potatoes from *one acre*. This has led to the following statistical facts.

COTTON.—In 1817 the export of cotton from the United States was (85,649,328 lbs.) more than eighty-five million. One acre yields, at a moderate estimate, 250 lbs. of clean cotton. This whole export, therefore, is the product of only 535 square miles: this is less than the 108th part of Georgia, and less than the 520th part of the cotton regions of the U. States.

RICE.—The maximum export of rice was 73,329 tierces, (in 1790,) or (43,997,400 lbs.) nearly forty-four million pounds. This, on an average crop, is the produce of only sixty-five square miles, which is less than the 440th part of South Carolina, and less than two-thirds of the District of Columbia.

TOBACCO.—The maximum export of tobacco was 12,428 hogsheads, in 1791. A hogshead is about one thousand weight; and, on average, one acre will yield one hogshead. The export, therefore, was the product of about 176 square miles, which is less than the 363d part of Virginia. Each of the 97 counties of that state contains, on an average, more than 659 square miles, viz: more than three times the quantity of land which furnished the above export.

SUGAR.—Such is, generally, the fertility of the equinoctial regions of America, that all the sugar consumed in France, estimated at twenty million kilogrammes, (about 54,000,000 pounds,) may be produced on an extent of 7 square leagues, which is not equal to one-thirtieth part of the smallest department of France.

WINE.—About 1,600,000 arpents, or 1,350,400 acres, are in France employed in the culture of the vine. The value of the annual product is about 100,800,000 dollars, at about twenty cents a gallon. In 1790 Bordeaux alone exported more than fifteen million gallons of wine. The 1,600,000 arpents are less than one 80th part of France, and less than one 20th part of Pennsylvania.

The value of the annual produce of these five interesting articles, may be thus estimated:

Cotton, at 15 cents,	\$12,847,399
Rice, \$20 a tierce,	1,466,580
Tobacco, \$60 a hogshead,	6,745,680
Wine, 20 cents a gallon,	100,800,000
Sugar consumed in France, at 10 cents a pound,	5,400,000

\$127,259,659

For the product of these articles the following quantities of land are cultivated, viz.

	<i>Square miles.</i>
For cotton	555
rice	65
tobacco	176
sugar	63
wine	2110

2969

This is little less than three-fourths of the state of Connecticut.

The authority for cotton, rice and tobacco, is Seybert's Statistical Annals, and the personal information of gentlemen of experience in the culture of those articles.

For sugar I have the authority of Humboldt's *Essai Politique*.

For wine I depend on Chaptal: his "Treatise, theoretical and practical, on the culture of the vine, and the art of making wine, brandy, spirits of wine, and vinegars, simple and compound," is a truly classic work, in which he had the aid of Rozier, Parmentier, and Dussieux. It contains all that the chemist, or botanist, or vine cultivator, or enlightened statesmen can reasonably ask or wish to know. It is in two octavo volumes, of about 500 pages each, with 21 plates.

This admirable treatise should be translated for the use of our fellow citizens who occupy our wine-yielding regions. For, in a few years, the United States will produce wine for their domestic consumption and exportation.

A revolution of our planet on its axis would present to the eye of an observer, at the distance of a few thousand miles, a few spots or specks (China or Holland) fully cultivated. The rest would be as a desert. Pauperism in England, now so extensive and so dangerous, is fulfilling the prophecies of Goldsmith's *Deserted Village*.

"Political economy (says Jean Baptiste Say,) is founded on statistical knowledge, or (what is the same thing) history;" and that "the American confederacy will have the glory of proving that the loftiest policy is in accordance with moderation and humanity."

The most active mind has not yet conceived an adequate idea of the vast resources of the United States.

Washington City.

West India Trade.—A West India merchant in the American Daily Advertiser of the 25th ult. examines the restrictions mutually imposed on the trade

between the British West India colonies and the United States. The British government, in pursuance of its policy to force every mode of industry into the hands of their nation, prohibited all intercourse with her colonies. Congress prohibited all British vessels to bring merchandise from any port to which American vessels were not admitted.—The British then threw open Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Bermuda, and since that has been done, a full trade has been carried on with those ports.

The object of the West India merchant is to show that by this means the British monopolise all the trade between the islands, those free ports being merely places of deposit from whence the merchandise is carried to a market where it is wanted by British vessels. This is perfectly clear, and it follows of course that the retaliatory law of Congress has proved ineffectual.

He proposes as a remedy, that Congress should prohibit all trade with the British colonies, until they shall *all* be open; being of opinion that as we give them the necessaries of life in exchange for superfluities, the inconvenience of the loss of trade will be so much greater on their part than on our own, that they will soon be forced to make trade free.

Distances to the Yellow Stone.

The following route from St. Louis to the Yellow Stone river, may afford some information to the numerous friends of the troops bound on that expedition.

	Miles.	Total.
From St. Louis to St. Charles is	21	
To Charette village	47	68
Gasconde river	32	100
Osage river	33	133
Leadmine hill	21	154
Saline river	19	173
Goodwoman's river	18	191
Mine river	9	200
Charlton river	20	220
Grand river	20	240
Coalbank	81	321
Kansas river	19	340
Nodawa	110	450
Platte river	150	600
Sioux river	253	853
James river	97	950
Quiconne	50	1000
White river	130	1130
Trenton river	133	1263
Chayenne river	47	1310
Waterloo river	112	1422
Cannonball river	78	1500

Fort Madan	100	1600
Little Missouri	90	1690
Yellow Stone river	190	1880

[*N. Y. Amer.*

The present age has presented so many novelties for our contemplation, that nothing but novelties seem to affect us. We hear of personal meetings and conferences, between powerful monarchs on the European continent, as if all these were mere matters of ordinary moment; whereas in any other period than the present, such facts would of themselves form important historical events. In our age of prodigies, these events pass off so lightly, that they excite no astonishment.

[*Morn. Chron.*

At the sale of a library of an eminent scholar of the last age, a book was put up by the auctioneer with this puff, "that it contained the doctor's manuscript notes." This recommendation of it obtained a high price, but when the happy purchaser took home his lot, the only note it contained was in these words: "This book is not worth reading."

A printer of a village gazette presented a bill to a delinquent subscriber, and finding the payment evaded, commenced a suit against his patron, who being served with a summons, exclaimed—"The rascal—sue me! me who subscribed to his paper eight years ago, on purpose to encourage him. I'll be revenged on the rascal—I'll not take his paper any longer."

An old woman that sold ale, being at church, fell asleep during the sermon, and unluckily let her old-fashioned clasped bible fall, which making a great noise, she exclaimed, half awake, 'So, you jade! there's another jug broke.'

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